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time during the year were the trees under observation without both flower and fruit. On the other hand, there are times when growth is more rapid, more flowers are developed and the terminal nodes elongate much more rapidly. The exact time of these periods has not yet been determined definitely, but data are being collected.

"The habit of the plant is being closely studied to determine the characteristics of each change and at what point in this growth the tips must be removed to produce the changes under discussion. It is possible that the power to produce pistillate flowers is inherent in the plant, being dormant unless some shock is given to destroy the equilibrium of the growth forces. This inherent quality is indicated by the fact that in some countries the plants are sometimes found naturally monoecious."

#### NEWS ITEMS

Kohang Yih, of China, is investigating the tobacco industry in the United States.

Oberlin College has recently received from Mrs. Mary F. Spencer a collection of several thousand European plants.

The Yale Forest School has recently acquired a thousand more acres at the reservation near Milford, Pennsylvania.

The Transvaal is planning an agricultural college; Dr. F. M. Smith is here making a study of American management.

Dr. J. E. Kirkwood, formerly of Syracuse University, is now at the Tucson Desert Botanical Laboratory engaged in research work.

Dr. Carl L. Alsberg, of the Harvard Medical School, has resigned to conduct the Department of Agriculture investigations on poisonous plants.

Mr. W. S. Harwood, of California, the author of "New Creations in Plant Life, or Life and Works of Luther Burbank," died in November.

Dr. Shigeo Yamanouchi, assistant in botany in the University of Chicago, is spending three months at the marine biological station at Naples.

Professor Charles R. Barnes and Dr. W. J. G. Land, of the University of Chicago, are in Mexico collecting research material, principally mosses.

The National Conservation Commission after six months' work held a meeting in Washington early in December to prepare the report requested by President Roosevelt.

Mr. Joseph H. Painter, aid in the Division of Plants of the U. S. National Museum, met death by accidental drowning in the Potomac River, December 6.

The Bartram Association has placed in the charge of Professor Macfarlane, of the University of Pennsylvania, the annual planting of a new tree in the Bartram gardens.

An American table is again being supported by Columbia University at the Naples biological laboratory. Applications may be sent to Professor E. B. Wilson at Columbia.

Dr. William A. Murrill, assistant director of the New York Botanical Garden, sailed for Jamaica on December 5. He plans to spend five or six weeks in collecting the fungi of the island.

Dr. Roland M. Harper has accepted a position with the Florida State Geological Survey, with headquarters at Tallahassee, and will be engaged during the winter in studying the origin, classification, distribution, and extent of the peat deposits of that State.

Beginning on December 28, the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture will give a six-day course for farmers at the Agricultural College in New Brunswick. About nine lectures are to be given each day on such varied subjects as farm manures and fertilizers, stock breeding, orchard and fruit trees, injurious insects, seed testing, and plant breeding.

The New York Academy of Sciences will observe Darwin's birthday, February 12, 1909, by presenting to the Museum of Natural History a bronze bust of Darwin and holding appropriate exercises, which will include an exhibition of material illustrating Darwin's theory of evolution and also indicate the range of his scientific work.

The Baltimore meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which begins December 28, includes, besides the sessions of the Section G, Botany, meetings of the following societies: American Federation of Teachers of the Mathematical and Natural Sciences, the American Society of Biological Chemists, the Botanical Society of America, Sullivant Moss Chapter, and Wild Flower Preservation Society.

Some weeks ago at the Chicago meeting of the board of trustees of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, measures were taken to institute a central board composed of representatives from the various stations engaged in marine work. Fourteen biological stations are at present included. Professor N. L. Britton (of the Torrey Club) represents the Cinchona Station of the New York Botanical Garden.

The new field organization of the Forest Service is well under way. The 377 foresters, clerks, and stenographers who are to make up the personnel of the service have been assigned to the six offices previously announced: Denver, Colo., Ogden, Utah, Missoula, Mont., Albuquerque, N. Mex., San Francisco, Cal., and Portland, Oreg. Much of the national forest business which formerly was transacted in Washington will now be handled by officers on or near the ground, which is a distinct improvement.

Mr. J. G. Lemmon, a pioneer botanist of California, died at his home in Oakland, November 24, aged seventy-six years. He served in the Civil War, came to the high Sierra Nevada to recuperate his shattered health, and under the inspiration of Asa Gray, collected plants and distributed widely his specimens, many of which represented species described as new by the botanical staff at Harvard. He was California State Forester from 1886 to 1890 and the author of numerous papers concerning west American trees.—W. L. JEPSON.